

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman. Councillor W. A. NEAL

Vice-Chairman. Councillor Mrs. E. K. HALLETT, J.P.

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Councillor R. L. PARSONS

Ex-officio Councillor V. G. MANDON, J.P. Mayor

STAFF - HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health (Combined Appointment)

I. B. LAWRENCE, B.Sc., M.B., D.P.H.

Clerk/Shorthand Typist (Combined Appointment)

Miss M. A. SMITH

Senior Public Health Inspector

C. F. ALLARD, D.P.A., M.R.S.M., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector

D. A. DOLPHIN, M.R.S.M., M.A.P.H.I.

General Assistant

B. A. GALE

Clerk

Mrs. D. A. JONDEL (Temporary - Part Time)

Rodent Operator - Part Time

E. HALLETT

Tel: Dorchester 1000
Saturdays a.m. - 1014

County Clinic,
Glyde Path Road,
Dorchester.

September, 1959.

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Dorchester.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my ninth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the Borough of Dorchester for the year 1958. It is written on the lines suggested by the Ministry of Health.

The incidence of infectious disease was low apart from Food Poisoning. Two cases were notified and eleven others ascertained on investigation, these were possibly due to the fouling of milk bottles by animals.

Mass vaccination sessions against Poliomyelitis were held at the beginning of the year and in the first week 1,244 (1,219 children) received the first dose. Before the end of the year 2,087 persons living in the Borough had completed the two injections. Later in the year, mass open sessions were again held during the day and in the evenings for the sixteen to twenty-five age group; this response was lower than the under sixteens but quite good compared with some parts of the country, this is hard to understand and although many people tend to pass derogatory remarks on the teenage group, everyone who took part in the vaccinating thought highly of the manner, bearing and interest of these young persons.

A special report was made to the Health Committee on Radiation Hazards associated with nuclear energy and certain recommendations were made.

Talks and films were given to school leavers on various health subjects including posture.

The Royal Society for the Promotion of Health held a Sessional Meeting at Dorchester in October, the subjects discussed were 1) Winfrith Atomic Research Establishment - Anticipated impact on Dorset; 2) Mental Health - Outlook for the Future. Over a hundred delegates attended and interesting discussions took place. I wish to thank the Council for allowing the Society to use the Corn Exchange.

The Mass Radiography Unit held two sessions for Food Handlers and some school children also attended, 324 persons were X-rayed. No abnormality was found among the school children, one adult was referred to her own doctor and was admitted to hospital for investigation.

A further Clearance Area involving 29 houses in Hill Street was represented and approved by the Council, no objections were received and the site was visited by a Ministry Inspector in September.

The provision of housing accommodation for the staff of the Winfrith Atomic Station now taxes the resources of the Council, but it must not be forgotten that the five year housing programme to deal with the 228 unfit houses is now two years behind schedule.

The ever increasing figures of animals slaughtered in the two abattoirs is continually before the Health Committee and the Council agreed to appoint a third Public Health Inspector, but in spite of two advertisements, no suitable candidate was available. However, every endeavour is being made to carry out the wish of the Council to maintain a hundred percent inspection - extra part time help is employed and the Public Health Inspectors' duties re-organised - this effort has virtually succeeded, but I am afraid at the expense of our normal Public Health duties which are not being adequately carried out.

At the request of the County Council, a special meeting was held to discuss informally the rehousing of old people. Dr. Lisney, the County Medical Officer of Health, submitting information regarding the need, the type of adaptation to houses which would be helpful and the financial aid which might be forthcoming from the County Council for this type of house.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Mayor and members of the Council for their help and understanding and for the co-operation of my colleagues on the staff, especially Mr. Allard and the staff of the Public Health Department for their continued endeavours during a busy year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. E. J. Gordon Wallace who kindly deputises for me when I am on leave.

Your obedient Servant,

I. B. Lawrence

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

(Figures for 1957 shown in brackets)

Area	...	...	...	...	...	1,675 acres
Resident Population ..	...	...	...	...	...	11,930 (11,510)
Number of houses inhabited at the end of 1958	...	...	...	...	...	3,450 (3,448)
Rateable Value (31st March, 1959)	...	...	...	...	...	£183,033 (£182,147)
Sum represented by Penny Rate (1958/1959)	...	...	...	...	...	£735 (£725)

VITAL STATISTICS

Population -- Estimate for Births and Deaths Rates				11,930
Comparability Factor	Births			1.01
	Deaths			0.92
<u>Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate	79	69	148	
Illegitimate	<u>—</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	
Totals	<u>79</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>153</u>	(185)
Still Births				
Legitimate	3	1	4	
Illegitimate	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	
Totals	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	(5)
<u>Deaths -- All Causes</u>	77	81	158	(136)
Deaths of Infants under 1 year (Infant Mortality)				
Legitimate	1	—	1	
Illegitimate	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	
Totals	<u>1</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>1</u>	(3)
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks (NeoNatal Mortality)				
Legitimate	—	—	—	
Illegitimate	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	
Totals	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	(3)

	<u>1958</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>
Birth Rate	12.9	17.12	15.8
Birth Rate for England and Wales	15.4	15.0	15.7
Death Rate	12.1	10.28	13.8
Death Rate for England and Wales	11.7	10.18	11.7
Infant Mortality Rate	5.5	16.0	18.8
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales...	22.5	23.0	23.8

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory... ..	--	1	1 (-)
Tuberculosis, other	--	--	-- (-)
Syphilitic disease	--	--	-- (-)
Diphtheria	--	--	-- (-)
Whooping Cough	--	--	-- (-)
Meningitis	--	--	-- (-)
Polioomyelitis	--	--	-- (-)
Measles	--	--	-- (-)
Other infective and parasitic diseases	--	1	1 (1)
Cancer of stomach	1	1	2 (2)
Cancer of lung, bronchus	6	2	8 (4)
Cancer of breast... ..	--	4	4 (4)
Cancer of uterus... ..	--	2	2 (-)
Other Cancers	5	7	12 (11)
Acute Anaemia	1	--	1 (-)
Diabetes	--	1	1 (-)
Vascular Lesions of nervous system... ..	9	12	21 (24)
Coronary Disease, angina	14	6	20 (19)
High Blood Pressure with Heart Disease	1	3	4 (3)
Other Heart Disease	16	18	34 (16)
Other circulatory disease... ..	1	5	6 (8)
Influenza	1	--	1 (1)
Pneumonia	7	5	12 (9)
Bronchitis	5	3	8 (4)
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	--	1 (1)
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	2 (2)
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea... ..	--	1	1 (2)
Nephritis and Nephrosis	--	--	-- (4)
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	--	2 (4)
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	--	--	-- (-)
Congenital malformations	1	--	1 (-)
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	7	9 (11)
Motor vehicle accidents	1	--	1 (1)
All other accidents	--	1	1 (2)
Suicide	2	--	2 (3)
All Causes	77	81	158 (136)

It is to be noted in the vital statistics that the births have fallen appreciably, being the lowest since 1950 and the Deaths have increased compared with last year; regarding the latter, the deaths from lung cancer are the highest recorded since 1951, but the main increase was due to deaths from Other Heart Disease and Bronchitis.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table summarises the notifications of infectious diseases made during the year :-

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>										<u>Cases admitted to hospital</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
	<u>0--</u>	<u>1--</u>	<u>3--</u>	<u>5--</u>	<u>10--</u>	<u>15--</u>	<u>25--</u>	<u>45--</u>	<u>55+</u>	<u>A.U.</u>		
Scarlet Fever	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--
Whooping Cough	1	2	--	7	--	--	--	--	--	--	10	--
Measles	--	11	13	20	4	--	--	--	--	--	48	3
Pneumonia	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	2	1	--	5	12
Dysentery	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Puerperal Pyrexia	--	--	--	--	--	2	8	--	--	--	10	10
Polioomyelitis	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Food Poisoning	--	--	1	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	2	--
Encephalitis	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	1
Meningitis	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	1	1

TUBERCULOSIS

During the year 1958, the following cases and deaths from Tuberculosis were notified :- (figures for 1957 shown in brackets)

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
55	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	3(6)	3(2)	—(—)	—(—)	—(—)	1(—)	—(—)	—(—)

LABORATORY FACILITIES

I wish to thank once again Dr. T. V. Cooper of the County Laboratory and Dr. G. E. Tee of the Public Health Laboratory and their staff for their continued help and co-operation during the year.

The following is a table of specimens submitted to the Laboratories:-
(Totals for 1957 in brackets)

Throat Swabs	...	125	(123)	Milk	...	183	(150)
Faeces	...	71	(204)	Ice Cream	...	57	(20)
Blood	...	23	(61)	Water	...	162	(142)
Ringworm	...	—	(6)	Sewage	...	—	(152)
Sputum	...	171	(175)	Miscellaneous	...	113	(163)

HOUSING

<u>Council Houses</u>	<u>In process of erection.</u>	<u>Completed 1958</u>	<u>Completed since war.</u>
Temporary --	--	--	--
Permanent --			
Traditional Type	--	10	349
Non-Traditional Type	--	--	26
Converted into Flats	--	--	5
Number of Council Houses (pre-war)			272
Number of Post War houses completed and occupied at 31/12/58 (excluding the converted flats)			375
Total number of Council Houses at 31/12/58 (excluding the converted flats)			647

It is to be noted that only 10 Council Houses were completed during the year, the lowest since 1950, the figures being seen below.

<u>1958</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1950</u>
10	34	27	52	32	54	40	32	26

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

Five cases were brought to my notice during the year. Two were persuaded to enter hospital voluntarily, in one case the house and contents needed disinfection.

The other three remained at home supervised by the Home Help Service and in one of the cases, attendance of the District Nurse.

All the persons were elderly and living on their own.

AMBULANCE SERVICES

To call the ambulance for routine work ring Dorchester 420, in an emergency ask the exchange for ambulance. Always state urgency, nature of case, full address and which ambulance is required, e.g. sitting or stretcher case.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL AND WATER MAINS

I am indebted to Mr. Davison the Borough Surveyor, for the following information.

The following extensions of water mains were made.

Maiden Castle Road	extension	4" main	180 lin. yds.
Barnes Way	new	7" main	350 lin. yds.
Damers Road	new	6" main	
	replacing	3" main	160 lin. yds.
Southern Area Housing Site			
and Herwington Road	new	4" main	1558 lin. yds.
	new	7" main	88 lin. yds.

Sewer extensions were

Southern Area Housing Site -- Foul Sewers	9" dia.	728 yds.
" " " " " "	6" dia.	1014 yds.
" " " " " " -- Surface Water		
Sewers	9" dia.	60 yds.
"	6" dia.	267 yds.

These extensions in the Southern Area Housing Site (Stage 1) were commenced in 1958 but were completed in March 1959.

WATER SUPPLIES

A chemical sample of the water supply taken by the Surveyor's Department is shown overleaf and it is of good quality.

Close co-operation between the Surveyor's Department and Health Department is being maintained.

PUBLIC CLEANSING -- REFUSE COLLECTION

The refuse disposal site is about three miles outside the Borough, it is well maintained, the use of a bulldozer has been a great help in consolidating the refuse and flattening of tins; regular layering and covering with soil is carried out.

The rodent control officer visits the site and regular spraying against flies is employed.

ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF WATER

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Ammonia, free	...	...	...	...	0.006
" Albuminoid	...	...	...	...	0.006
Nitrites	...	...	...	...	Trace
Nitrates, as Nitric Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	4.73
Oxygen absorbed in 15 mins. at 30°F	...	...	...	...	0.42
" " 4 hours " "	...	...	...	...	0.50
Chlorine	...	...	...	...	24.0
as Sodium Chloride	...	...	...	...	41.4
Hardness, temporary	...	...	...	...	225.0
" permanent	...	...	...	...	31.0
" total	...	...	...	...	256.0
Total Solids	...	...	...	...	354.0
pH value	...	...	...	...	7.5

Metals: Iron, copper, lead, zinc absent.

Appearance: Colourless and clear.

Odour: None.

Free Chlorine:

Remarks:

This is a clear, bright, hard water. The greater part of the hardness is of a temporary nature and would be removed by boiling.

The water is of good organic purity and the above results show no evidence of recent or past pollution, and is, in my opinion, suitable for both drinking and domestic purposes.

(signed) J. Simpson.
B.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.I.C.
Deputy Public Analyst.

6th November, 1950.

METEOROLOGICAL DETAILS -- YEAR 1958

Month	Rainfall inches	Rain Fell On days	Sunshine hours	Temp. in deg. F.	
				Maximum	Minimum
January	4.43	15	54.50	51	19
February	4.11	16	35.50	55	27
March	1.86	7	100.00	56	21
April	0.72	6	169.50	65	23
May	2.63	17	180.25	59	51
June	3.32	13	157.00	64	49
July	3.44	12	180.50	79	44
August	3.81	20	101.95	71	45
September	6.39	15	126.45	75	40
October	4.34	12	96.25	62	33
November	4.04	12	53.25	50	31
December	5.65	20	27.75	54	27
	<u>44.79</u>	<u>165</u>	<u>1,282.90</u>		

Totals in

1957	46.67	1,496.10
1956	41.60	1,570.30
1955	44.07	1,756.50
1954	46.43	1,505.30
1953	33.20	1,605.69
1952	40.11	1,644.10
1951	52.36	1,620.58
1950	46.28	1,577.00

Telephone (Office):
Dorchester 934.

Public Health Inspectors' Office,
North Square,
DORCHESTER.

September, 1959.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Dorchester.

Annual Report for 1958.

I present for your consideration the following report on the work carried out by your public health inspectors in 1958.

This is the first report since 1955 which does not show staff changes and as a result there has been a substantial step forward in dealing with arrears of work, particularly office and administrative work. This progress has been helped by the interest shown in their work by the General Assistant and Clerk.

The outside work of the inspectors was again affected by the volume of meat inspection. Over 70,000 animals passed through the two slaughterhouses, an increase of 13 per cent over the 1957 throughput, and in the first quarter of the year more than 1,100 cattle which reacted to the tuberculin test were slaughtered at one slaughterhouse. This added to our duties considerably and I am very grateful for the continued help received outside office hours on meat inspection from officers of a neighbouring authority.

The Council again agreed to the appointment of a second additional public health inspector and advertised the appointment twice. No applications were received the first time and two the second time, one of whom was not qualified. The other applicant was invited to an interview, but before this was held he had obtained another post. An attempt was made to overcome the difficulties by re-organising the duties, but little difference was made as a result.

One effect on our other duties of the pressure of work has been that complaints have not always been attended to as promptly as I would wish.

The General Assistant performs duties both inside and outside the office. He attended a course in rodent control organised by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and subsequently undertook duties under the Council's rodent control scheme. In addition it has been possible to recommence routine sampling of milks, ice-cream and water, and (in 1959) the tracing of carriers of fevers of the enteric group by means of Moore's sewer swabs. These duties have been carried out by the General Assistant, who made 510 visits during 1958.

The Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, came into operation on 1st August, 1958, and includes provisions relating to the licensing of slaughterhouses, submission to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of reports on the slaughtering needs and facilities in the district, and bringing slaughterhouses within the scope of the Factories Acts. The Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958, repealed and consolidated previous legislation and came into force on 18th January, 1959. The Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958, and The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958, came into operation on 1st January, 1959, and will be mentioned in my report for 1959.

I would like to express my thanks to the members of the Council for the support received and to the chief officers and my other colleagues on the staff for their help and advice.

B. F. Reed.

Senior Public Health Inspector.

1. INSPECTIONS - 1958.

Under the Housing Acts:

Inspection of dwelling-houses	83
Re-inspection of dwelling-houses	437
Visits re overcrowding	6
Unclassified	149
	<hr/> 675

Under the Food & Drugs Acts:

Inspection and visits re unsound food	60
Inspection of food premises (including visits for sampling only)	191
Visits re notified or suspected cases of food poisoning	9
Visits to slaughterhouses	1,423
Visits to dairies (including visits for sampling only)	28
Unclassified	6
	<hr/> 1,717

Under the Public Health Acts:

Inspection and/or testing of sewers/drains (including soil and ventilating pipes)	97
Inspection of closets and cesspools	12
Inspection of filthy or verminous premises	23
Inspection of public conveniences	1
Inspection for detection and abatement of statutory nuisances	81
Inspection and sampling of water supplies	14
Enquiries and visits re infectious diseases	18
Inspection of tents, vans and sheds	2
Unclassified	10
	<hr/> 258

Under the Factories Act:

Inspection of factories	17
Visits to outworkers' premises	-
Unclassified	-
	<hr/> 17

Under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act:

(including 38 inspections carried out whilst visiting premises under other Acts but excluding visits by the rodent operator)	239
Other visits	15
	<hr/> 254

Under the Shops Acts:

	1
--	---

Under the Petroleum Acts:

	78
--	----

Under the Pet Animals Act:

	-
--	---

Miscellaneous:

	-
	<hr/> 79
	<hr/> 3,000

The total of 3,000 inspections includes 510 visits made by the General Assistant.

2. COMPLAINTS - 1958.

Disrepair of houses	22
Overcrowding or other inadequate housing conditions	6
Unsound food or unsatisfactory conditions in food premises	5
Defective and/or choked drains, sewers, closets, cesspools, etc.	21
Verminous and/or filthy premises	6
Offensive accumulations or deposits	17
Other public health nuisances	9
Rats and mice	55
Unclassified	1
	<hr/> 142 <hr/>

3. NOTICES - 1958.

	<u>Informal Notices</u>		<u>Formal Notices</u>	
	Served	Complied with	Served	Complied with
Under (or preliminary to action under) Public Health Acts	36	25	1	-
Under (or preliminary to action under) Housing Acts	-	2	-	-
Under (or preliminary to action under) Food & Drugs Acts	4	1	-	-
Under (or preliminary to action under) Factories Acts	4	-	-	-
Under (or preliminary to action under) Prevention of Damage by Pests Act	1	-	-	-
Under (or preliminary to action under) Petroleum Acts	14	-	-	-
Under (or preliminary to action under) Shops Acts	1	-	-	-
Totals:	60	28	1	-

4. HOUSING.

Clearance Areas.

Action with regard to clearance areas is the responsibility of the Clearance and Redevelopment Committee, which met four times during the year. The rehousing of tenants is the responsibility of the Housing Committee.

The rehousing of tenants from properties in "The Borough of Dorchester (Mill Street, Scheme No.1) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1957", and "The Borough of Dorchester (The Grove) Clearance Order, 1957", was completed during 1958, but the properties were not demolished by the end of the year. Some of them had been empty since 1953, the Council's policy being to close unfit houses whenever tenants from them were rehoused. Once the areas were generally vacated, damage to the properties by irresponsible persons increased and the properties deteriorated rapidly.

The Council made "The Borough of Dorchester (Mill Street, Scheme No.2) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1958" - the second stage of the Mill Street Clearance scheme - including twenty-nine houses. Houses were available for the rehousing of the tenants and most of them were rehoused before the Council formally made the Compulsory Purchase Order, the owners giving undertakings not to relet under section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957. The Order was confirmed by the Minister.

Three families were rehoused from the "third stage" houses in the Mill Street scheme, and it is anticipated that this area will be considered in detail in 1959.

Individual Houses.

Individual unfit houses are dealt with by the Health Committee, which took the following action:-

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Persons displaced</u>
41 Mill Street	Undertaking not to relet accepted by Council. 11.3.58.	2 - Rehoused 10.3.58.
47 do.	do.	1 - Rehoused 10.3.58.
48 do.	do.	2 - Found own accommodation
52 do.	do.	4 - Rehoused 10.3.58.
53 do.	do.	3 - Rehoused 10.3.58.

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Persons displaced</u>
54, Mill Street	Undertaking not to relet accepted by Council 11.3.58.	3 - Rehoused 10.3.58.
62 do.	do.	4 - Rehoused 10.3.58.
63 do.	do.	1 - Rehoused 1.4.58.
64 do.	do.	5 - Rehoused 10.3.58.
66 do.	do.	3 - Rehoused 10.3.58.
67 do.	do.	1 - Found own accommodation
80 do.	do.	3 - Rehoused 10.3.58.
81 do.	do.	2 - Rehoused 22.12.58.
1, Gregory's Buildings	do.	4 - Rehoused 10.3.58.
2 do.	do.	3 - Rehoused 3.3.58.
3 do.	do.	3 - Rehoused 10.3.58.
5 do.	do.	1 - Found own accommodation
6 do.	do.	2 - Rehoused 10.3.58.
7 do.	do.	3 - Rehoused 17.3.58.
8 do.	do.	3 - Rehoused 14.4.58.
9 do.	do.	4 - Rehoused 10.3.58.
10 do.	do.	6 - Found own accommodation
4, Mill Street	Undertaking not to relet accepted by Council 6.5.58.	2 - Rehoused 14.4.58.
14 do.	do.	5 - Rehoused 14.4.58.
17 do.	do.	3 - Rehoused 14.4.58.
8, West Walks	do.	2 - Rehoused by Dorchester Municipal Charities
21, Miller's Close	Closing Order made by Council 10.6.58.	2 - do.
4, Pound Lane	do.	6 - Rehoused 28.4.58.

The following table summarises the action taken by the Council under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957, (formerly Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936) from 1951 onwards:-

	<u>Total</u> 1951 - 1957 (inclusive)	1958	<u>Total</u> 1951- 1958 (inclusive)
Undertakings not to relet given by owners	18	26	44
Undertakings to repair houses given by owners	2	-	2
Houses voluntarily closed by owners	4	-	4
Closing Orders made	32	2	34
Demolition Orders made	3	-	3
	<hr/> 59	<hr/> 28	<hr/> 87
Houses voluntarily demolished by owners	5	-	5
Houses demolished by owners after statutory action by Council	2	-	2
	<hr/> 7	<hr/> -	<hr/> 7

Housing Repairs.

Repairs to housing defects were completed in twenty-two houses during the year. After a lapse, applications for Improvement Grants were accepted for consideration, but provision not having been made in the estimates, only one application was approved.

Rent Act, 1957.

Five new applications for certificates of disrepair were received during the year, making a total of nine applications since the Act came into force. All except one were approved in respect of some but not all of the defects specified by the tenants. The exception was approved without modification.

Five undertakings to carry out the works were given by the landlords and two certificates of disrepair issued.

5. FOOD PREMISES.

The number of food premises in the area, classified under the principal trade carried out, is as follows:-

Butchers	12
Fishmongers	5
Grocers and provision merchants	35
Bakers and flour confectioners	4
Greengrocers	10
Confectioners	14
Hotels	12
Restaurants	18
Public Houses and clubs	20
	<u>130</u>

The number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, at 31st December, 1958, and of inspections made (including visits for sampling) is as follows:-

	<u>No. registered</u>	<u>No. of inspections</u>
For the sale, or manufacture, or storage of ice-cream	47	54
For the preparation or manufacture of meat products or preserved foods	4	4

The number of dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949-1954, and of inspections made (including visits for sampling) is as follows:-

Distributors with premises within the Borough	4
Distributors trading from outside the Borough	2
Retail shops selling bottled milk only	21
	<u>27</u>
Number of inspections	28

6. FOOD HYGIENE.

The total number of visits to food premises for all purposes was one hundred and ninety-one.

Notices were served under the Food Hygiene Regulations with regard to the following:-

- (a) The display of foodstuffs in a branch of a large multiple company not adequately protected from contamination. (The notice was complied with immediately).
- (b) Constructional defects and unsatisfactory equipment in a butcher's shop. (The tenants had the matter in hand by the end of the year).
- (c) Unsatisfactory equipment and standard of cleanliness in the manufacturing section of a butcher's shop. (Certain action was taken immediately and subsequently the section was closed).
- (d) A defective vehicle used for meat transport. (The butcher concerned traded from premises outside the Borough and it was understood that the vehicle was to be renewed).

7. FOOD INSPECTION.

Milk. In accordance with the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order, 1954, all milk retailed within the Borough of Dorchester must be specially designated milk, i.e. "Pasteurised", "Sterilised" or "Tuberculin Tested" milk.

Twenty samples of milk were taken:

	<u>Passed</u>	<u>Failed</u>
Tuberculin Tested	-	-
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	7	-
Pasteurised	<u>13</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>20</u>	<u>-</u>

Investigations were commenced at the end of the year into the milk supply from a farm in the Borough after the Medical Officer of Health of another district had served a notice on the farmer under Part VII. of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, a sample of the milk taken in his district having shown evidence of the causative organism of undulant fever. While the investigations continued the farmer diverted the milk

from his herd to a pasteurising plant. Pasteurisation destroys the organism of undulant fever.

Ice-cream. Fifty-seven samples of ice-cream were submitted for bacteriological examination, the results of which were:-

	<u>Bulk</u> <u>Ice-cream</u>	<u>Pre-packed</u> <u>Ice-cream</u>
Provisional Grade 1	13	28
Provisional Grade 2	1	9
Provisional Grade 3	2	1
Provisional Grade 4	-	3
	<hr/> 16 <hr/>	<hr/> 41 <hr/>

Other foods.

Amongst complaints received and dealt with were the following:-

- (a) Butter alleged to have caused food poisoning. (Investigations and samples did not provide evidence to support the complaint).
- (b) Cheese contained cigarette end. (Investigations were carried out at the manufacturing premises and a warning given to the proprietors of the shop).
- (c) Fly-blown and unsatisfactory condition of soft cheese. (A warning was given to the proprietors of the shop and the manufacturers asked to consider satisfactorily marking the packs to ensure the cheeses were sold before becoming out of condition).
- (d) Larvae of beetle found in cereal food. (Investigations suggested the larvae gained access to the packet after leaving the factory. The manufacturers were considering a new type of pack).
- (e) Mouldy meat pie. (The pie had been stored in unsatisfactory conditions over several days and a strong warning was given).

Unsound food.

The quantities of food found to be unsound and voluntarily surrendered to the department for disposal are shown in the following table. The food is surrendered at the office of the inspectors and disposed of by burying at the Council's refuse tip.

Canned or other pre-packed foods:-

698	lbs.	Meat or fish (467 packs)
1100	lbs.	Fruit (619 packs)
401	lbs.	Vegetables (418 packs)
191	lbs.	Soup (237 packs)
133	lbs.	Milk (96 packs)
128	lbs.	Other pre-packed foods (123 packs)
10	lbs.	Minerals (7 packs)

Other foods:

60	lbs.	Meat, bacon and meat products
348	lbs.	Fish
18	lbs.	Confectionery
1820	lbs.	Potatoes

Total Weight: 4,907 lbs.

8. MEAT INSPECTION.

Two premises within the Borough continued in use as licensed private slaughterhouses. About ten per cent of the throughput was available for local trade, the remainder of the meat being distributed through the wholesale markets in London and other centres up to 200 miles away. In addition beef from one slaughterhouse was sent to the continent.

The number of animals slaughtered showed a substantial increase, rising from the 1957 total of 62,567 to a figure of 70,860 and to achieve this throughput the slaughterhouses operated over long hours and often under very congested conditions. The work of examining the carcasses and offals to ensure that meat reaching the public was free from diseased conditions carried on throughout almost every Sunday and weekday in the year. The additional public health inspector was almost full-time on routine meat inspection, the senior inspector had to spend an increased amount of time on such duties and in addition inspectors from a neighbouring authority assisted us on Sundays and evenings. On an increasing number of occasions two inspectors were on meat inspection at the same time and there were occasions when three inspectors were so engaged. There is no need for me to emphasise the effect on other public health work, which has been commented on in previous reports, or the difficulties encountered in maintaining a satisfactory standard of examination.

Meat inspection during 1958 was affected by the increased overall throughput, but especially by the increased cattle throughput (mostly cows) and the eradication of tubercular cattle. There was a substantial increase in the quantities of meat and offals rejected as unfit due mainly to three factors: (i) the tubercular cattle; (ii) the increased number of cows; (iii) the refusal of the owner of 33 carcasses of beef affected with localised cysticercus bovis to submit the carcasses to the approved cold storage treatment before sale. The condemnation of carcasses from animals slaughtered for emergency reasons (sickness and injury) also accounts for a proportion of the rejections. The causes for the rejection of the whole carcasses set out on page 25 show that nearly 200 carcasses were condemned for fevered or septic conditions, and had these been consumed they might have directly resulted in illness of the persons eating the meat.

The incidence of cysticercus bovis was appreciably lower than in 1957 - 1.20 per cent compared with 2.23 per cent - and this may well be related to the increased proportion of cows in the cattle throughput.

The full Government grant towards the cost of meat inspection for the financial year 1958/1959 would have been £879, but will be reduced to £388 because the Council received £982 from the two slaughtering companies, the total income therefore being £1,370.

Carcases and Offals inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle ex. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Goats
Number killed	1,686	4,674	16,891	27,184	20,409	16
Number inspected	1,680	4,667	16,822	27,073	20,387	15
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	4	86	105	57	78	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	544	2,842	132	2,603	3,304	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	32.62	62.74	1.41	9.83	16.59	6.67
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	8	54	10	-	3	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	196	1,166	46	-	790	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	12.14	26.14	0.33	-	3.89	-
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	29	46	-	32	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	23	19	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	1	-	-	-	-
Total number of carcasses affected with one or more of above conditions	728	3,514	288	2,692	4,167	1
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease	43.33	75.29	1.71	9.94	20.44	6.67

The approximate weights of meat and offals rejected as unfit for human consumption, together with the comparative figures for previous years are shown below:-

Meat and Offals rejected (tons).

	<u>Tuberculosis</u>	<u>Other Diseases</u>	<u>Total</u>
1951	24	19	43
1952	19	25	44
1953	18	20	38
1954	17	16	33
1955	17	20	37
1956	14	31	45
1957	16	39	55
1958	37	62	99

The number of whole carcasses rejected as unfit for human consumption was 406, (0.57 per cent of the total number of animals inspected) compared with 416 (0.68 per cent) in 1957. Details are shown in the following table:-

	<u>Cattle</u> <u>ex. cows</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Goats</u>	<u>Total</u>
1955	13	46	15	13	39	1	127
Percentage	(1.1)	(2.1)	(0.09)	(0.12)	(0.18)		(0.24)
1956	18	87	97	37	166	-	405
Percentage	(1.1)	(5.2)	(0.46)	(0.17)	(1.15)		(0.66)
1957	14	85	127	52	138	-	416
Percentage	(0.87)	(5.84)	(0.63)	(0.23)	(0.82)		(0.68)
1958	12	141	115	57	81	-	406
Percentage	(0.71)	(3.02)	(0.68)	(0.21)	(0.40)		(0.57)

The principal causes for the rejection of the 406 whole carcasses, classified in terms of Memo. 3/Meat, were as follows:-

<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</u>	<u>Cattle</u> <u>ex.Cows</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Blackleg	-	-	1	-	-
Bruising, extensive and severe	1	5	2	5	2
Cysticercus bovis, generalised	-	1	-	-	-
Decomposition, generalised	-	1	-	-	-
Emaciation, pathological	-	5	3	18	12
Fever (including salmonellosis)	-	12	41	9	24
Immaturity	-	-	8	2	1
Jaundice	-	-	6	4	2
Mastitis, acute septic	-	9	-	-	-
Metritis, acute septic	-	1	-	-	-
Oedema, generalised	1	16	14	7	3
Peritonitis, acute, diffuse, septic	-	2	2	-	4
Pleurisy, acute, diffuse, septic	-	-	2	3	4
Pneumonia, acute septic	-	1	5	3	8
Pyæmia, including joint-ill	2	17	18	-	6
Septicæmia or toxæmia	-	9	1	3	5
Swine erysipelas, acute	-	-	-	-	5
Tumours	-	1	1	1	-
Uraemia	-	-	-	1	-
Other causes	-	7	1	1	2
	4	87	105	57	78

Tuberculosis.

Generalised tuberculosis	8	51	10	-	3
Tuberculosis with emaciation	-	3	-	-	-
	8	54	10	-	3

The incidence of bovine tuberculosis which had declined for some years showed an increase in 1957 and again in 1958, largely due in the latter year to the clearing of reactor cattle.

	<u>Cattle</u> <u>(excluding cows)</u>	<u>Cows</u>
1951	10.2 per cent	28.4 per cent
1952	10.79 per cent	25.24 per cent
1953	10.60 per cent	23.67 per cent
1954	8.01 per cent	18.98 per cent
1955	8.26 per cent	17.21 per cent
1956	6.82 per cent	13.67 per cent
1957	9.31 per cent	15.19 per cent
1958	12.14 per cent	26.14 per cent

Cysticercus Bovis.

All cattle were subjected to routine examination of the head, tongue, heart and diaphragm and seventy-six cases of cysticercus bovis were found. One infection was found to be generalised. The incidence of cysticercus bovis was 1.20 per cent and the locations of the cysts found were as follows:-

Generalised (all sites of predilection and widespread infection of carcass)	1
Head (external and/or internal masseter muscles)	37
Head (pterygoid muscles)	4
Head (tongue)	1
Head (pterygoid muscles and tongue)	1
Heart	28
Head and heart	2
Skirt (diaphragm)	2
	<hr/> 76

Forty-two of the seventy-five carcasses affected with localised cysticercus bovis were submitted to cold storage (nearly all at premises within the Borough) and kept at the prescribed temperatures before release for consumption. The remaining carcasses were rejected because the butcher refused to submit the carcass to the approved cold storage treatment. Some of the carcasses were boned out before being subjected to the cold storage

treatment which destroys the cyst. However, the meat after subjection to cold storage is not readily marketable. As the cysts if viable and not subjected to sufficient heat in cooking, upon ingestion by humans develop into the human tapeworm, the importance from the public health point of view of preventing infected carcasses from reaching the market without adequate treatment will be appreciated. The incidence of cysticercus bovis in cattle examined at the Dorchester slaughterhouses during the past eight years is as follows:-

1951	0.65 per cent	(28 cases)
1952	0.74 per cent	(31 cases)
1953	1.60 per cent	(70 cases)
1954	0.61 per cent	(23 cases)
1955	0.80 per cent	(27 cases)
1956	0.94 per cent	(31 cases)
1957	2.23 per cent	(68 cases)
1958	1.20 per cent	(76 cases)

Laboratory facilities.

The facilities of the Public Health Laboratory, which is under the direction of Dr. G.H. Tee, are available for the examination of specimens from carcasses.

9. SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1933 and 1954.

Seventeen slaughtermen employed at the local slaughterhouses were licensed to slaughter or stun cattle, sheep, pigs and goats with a mechanically operated instrument of the captive bolt pistol type or an electrically operated instrument (electrolethaler). No licences to slaughter horses within the Borough have been issued.

10. WATER SUPPLIES.

Fourteen samples of the mains water supply taken by the public health inspectors, in addition to samples taken each week by the Water Engineer, were reported on as satisfactory.

11. DRAINAGE.

Eight visits were made to inspect and test new drains, the remainder of this work being temporarily undertaken by the Borough Surveyor's staff. Eighty-nine visits were made to inspect and test old drains.

The Council approved a contract for the carrying out of Stage III works of the Council's Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme.

12. CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.

Notification was received of the proposed installation of a furnace, oil-fired boilers replacing two Lancashire boilers, and subsequently the installation was approved for the purposes of section 3 of the Clean Air Act, 1956.

It was understood that another installation was to be converted to oil burning. Complaints were received of black smoke being emitted from this chimney.

A new boiler house with an oil-fired installation was constructed at the County Hospital.

13. FACTORIES.

The table on page 29 shows the number of factories on the Council's register and details of the inspections made. Routine inspection of the factories in the Borough was not carried out.

An amended certificate of adequate means of escape in case of fire was issued under section 34 of the Factories Act, 1937, in respect of one factory. At another factory the occupiers were asked to make alterations before the Council would issue a certificate.

Notification was received during the year of twenty-seven outworkers who were employed in their own homes making wearing apparel or nets.

14. CAMPING CONTROL.

Licences were issued under section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, to three persons to station an individual caravan for permanent use. A licensed residential site for twenty-nine caravans continued in use throughout the year. This site is provided with permanent sanitary accommodation (three water-closets for each sex), washbasins and mains water supply. The whole site has been asphalted to form hard standings.

15. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Six samples from the River Frome were taken. All the samples indicated that the river was heavily polluted.

Twelve samples from the Children's Paddling Pool in the Borough Gardens were taken during the summer holiday period. In view of some of the results the Borough Surveyor was asked to improve the cleansing of the pool and the chlorination of the water.

It was not possible to recommence the investigation of the sewers to trace carriers of enteric fever, abandoned in October, 1957, until January, 1959.

FACTORIES ON THE COUNCIL'S REGISTER AND DETAILS OF INSPECTIONS MADE.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3, 4&6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	18	-	-	-
(11) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authorities	93	16	3	-
(111) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authorities (excluding outworkers' premises)	12	1	1	-
	123	17	4	-

FACTORIES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences:-					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	8	3	-	6	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total:	8	3	-	6	-

16. VERMINOUS PREMISES.

During the year ten premises were disinfested, £35.8.4. being recovered from the persons administering the properties concerned. The charges for this work were revised during the year. The work was carried out to destroy the following pests:-

Cockroaches	7 premises
Fleas	2 premises
Fleas and bed-bugs	1 premises

17. RODENT CONTROL.

The Council's rodent control service was continued on the lines of the scheme approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. No charge is made for the destruction by the Council of rats and mice, except in the case of business premises. During the year the Council revised the charges for rodent control work and approved the work being carried out on a contract basis. The work carried out during the year is shown in the table below:-

	Local Authority Premises	Dwelling Houses inc. L.A. Houses	All other Premises inc. Trade Premises	Agri- culture	Total
Total Number of Properties	18	3,426	803	24	4,271
Number of Properties inspected as a result of:					
(a) Notification	5	36	10	3	54
(b) Survey	-	50	13	-	63
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited for some other purpose)	3	22	7	-	52
Number of Properties inspected found to be infested by					
(a) Rats	3	28	5	3	39
(b) Mice	2	3	3	-	8
Number of Infested Properties treated by the L.A.	5	29	8	3	45

In March a maintenance treatment of thirty-seven manholes was carried out, at seventeen of which rat infestations were found. In September test baiting of sewers was undertaken at thirty-eight manholes, the bait being consumed by rats at eight manholes. A maintenance treatment of twenty manholes was therefore undertaken and eighteen manholes were found to be infested.

18. RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

Under the above Act five premises in which upholstery is undertaken are registered by the Council. Premises within the Borough are not used for the manufacture or storage of rag flock. No visits of inspection or sampling under this Act were made during the year.

19. DEALERS IN OLD METALS.

Six dealers in old metals are registered by the Council under the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907. No visits of inspection were made during the year by your public health inspectors.

20. PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928 and 1936.

At the beginning of the year fifty-three licences were renewed in respect of existing petroleum installations.

Thirty-eight visits were made during the year to licensed installations, and thirty-eight visits to new or proposed installations.

21. PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

One shop was licensed by the Council under the above Act for the sale of pet animals.

22. HEATING APPLIANCES (FIREGUARDS) ACT, 1952.

This Act and the Regulations made under it require that from 1st October, 1954, all gas, electric and oil fires must be fitted, when sold, with a guard attached which complies with the appropriate British Standard. Attention to this was drawn in a report on "Accidents in the Home - Burns and Scalds" issued by the Ministry of Health in February, 1958. About 700 persons die each year due to burns and scalds received in the home and about 50,000 others need hospital treatment. About 80 per cent of the deaths are due to clothing igniting on contact with unguarded or inadequately guarded fires.

